UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/26479
21 September 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 20 SEPTEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 17 September 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr. A. V. Kozyrev, addressed to you on the question of confidence-building measures between the parties in conflict in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and request you to have it circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Y. VORONTSOV

Annex

Letter dated 17 September 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General

I have just visited Sarajevo and should like to inform you about my impressions and share with you certain ideas that came about as a result of talks with the leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Bosnian Serbs.

The situation in Sarajevo seems calmer than it was during my visit to the city in May of last year, although there is considerably more destruction and the sound of shooting can still be heard.

Members of all the communities in the city are now equally concerned about one problem: the approaching winter. This general feeling of anxiety, it seems, is moving the parties towards a dialogue on issues that are quite specific.

By making use of this situation, it would be possible to take a number of steps to strengthen confidence-building measures between the parties in conflict, utilizing the potential of the United Nations Forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The following is a set of measures, some of which have been included, as a result of our common efforts in Sarajevo and Geneva, in the joint declaration on the conditions for signing a peace agreement, which was adopted by the Muslim and Serb parties, while others require additional steps and assistance on the part of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR):

1. Establishment of a direct telephone line between Sarajevo and Pale in order to make effective contact.

The Muslim and Serb sides agree in principle on this.

2. Opening of new routes for the delivery of humanitarian assistance through territory under Serb control, including routes to areas that are now blocked as a result of fighting between Muslims and Croats.

The Russian side is prepared to provide three to five civilian monitors to accompany the convoys.

3. Establishment of a joint commission made up of representatives of the parties and UNPROFOR in order to resolve questions relating to restoration of the city's water and power supply.

The Serbs have expressed their readiness to supply Sarajevo with fuel (firewood and coal) "for a modest fee" or arrange its transshipment from other areas of Bosnia through territory under their control.

4. Establishment in Sarajevo of three check-points for unimpeded passage by citizens as a first step towards making Sarajevo an open city.

5. Obtaining permission to purchase 6,000 tons of salt and 2,000 tons of oil in order to maintain the normal condition of roads and ensure the movement of humanitarian convoys over them during the winter period.

This is a request by the Serb side.

6. Transfer of school textbooks to the Muslim side in exchange for Serb objects of cultural value situated in Sarajevo.

This is a proposal by the Serb side.

7. Establishment of "medical corridors" between hospitals in the area of Sarajevo (from Ilidža to Lukavica for the Serb side and from Hrasnica to Koševo for the Muslim side).

8. Assistance in obtaining authorization from the Security Council Committee on sanctions for the delivery of 10,000 tons of fuel oil to heat schools, hospitals and kindergartens during the winter.

This is a request by the Serb side.

It seems that these measures could help stabilize the situation around Sarajevo and in Bosnia and Herzegovina in general and bring us closer to a final settlement of this bloody conflict.

I request you to bring my letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council as well as the senior officials of UNPROFOR, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

A. KOZYREV
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation